

H.739 Side by Side Comparison

H.739 as Passed by House	H.739 Senate Proposal of Amendment
<p data-bbox="107 310 358 342">Sec. 1. FINDINGS</p> <p data-bbox="191 348 623 380">The General Assembly finds that:</p> <p data-bbox="155 386 781 527">(1) Paraquat or paraquat dichloride is a synthetic, nonselective contact herbicide that is a member of the bipyridylium chemical family and that defoliates all vegetation that it touches.</p> <p data-bbox="155 533 781 743">(2) Paraquat was first registered in the United States in 1964, and, in 1978, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) classified all paraquat products as restricted use pesticides because of paraquat’s high acute toxicity and potential for poisoning.</p> <p data-bbox="155 749 781 926">(3) Paraquat has been widely used throughout the United States since its classification as a restricted use pesticide, and 24 currently registered pesticide products approved for use in the United States contain paraquat.</p> <p data-bbox="155 932 781 1108">(4) The Pesticide Action Network’s 2024 Consolidated List of Banned Pesticides identifies 72 countries as banning the use of paraquat, including Brazil, China, Malaysia, Peru, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Turkey, and Vietnam.</p> <p data-bbox="155 1115 781 1367">(5) The European Union banned paraquat in 2007 after a court determined that the relevant regulatory body had failed to apply proper procedures for evaluation of the herbicide and that the regulatory body was not properly thorough in its assessments of paraquat’s effects on human and animal health.</p> <p data-bbox="155 1373 781 1549">(6) Multiple studies by the National Institutes of Health have demonstrated that paraquat exposure substantially increases the risk of Parkinson’s disease in those exposed to the herbicide.</p> <p data-bbox="155 1556 781 1696">(7) Studies by the National Institutes of Health and others have linked exposure to paraquat to increased risk of non-Hodgkin lymphoma and childhood leukemia.</p> <p data-bbox="155 1703 781 1879">(8) In 2021, as part of a product registration review of paraquat required under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), the EPA issued an interim decision approving the continued registration of paraquat</p>	

for use in the United States, despite multiple public comments objecting to approval and significant scientific evidence regarding the potential health effects of paraquat exposure.

(9) Multiple parties subsequently moved to challenge the EPA interim decision authorizing the continued registration and use of paraquat. In particular, the challenging parties contested the EPA's assessment of the increased risk of Parkinson's disease due to exposure to paraquat from volatilization during use.

(10) In January 2025, after a petition from the EPA, a court allowed the EPA to withdraw the interim registration approval for paraquat so that the EPA may reconsider its initial conclusion concerning the potential for paraquat to volatilize and to determine whether paraquat continues to meet FIFRA's registration standard.

(11) In October 2025, the EPA issued a memorandum titled *PARAQUAT: Review of the Volatilization Potential of Paraquat from Field Uses* and determined that there is a greater uncertainty regarding the potential for paraquat to volatilize than previously understood. The EPA concluded that more data is needed to understand the risk paraquat poses to bystanders.

(12) The EPA's reevaluation of the risks of paraquat may take years, and the EPA's withdrawal of the interim registration and further evaluation does not prohibit the continued use of paraquat during that review period.

(13) Instead of waiting for EPA action on whether or how to use paraquat, the State of Vermont should ban the use of paraquat in order to protect Vermonters from the known, significant health effects of exposure to paraquat.

Sec. 2. 6 V.S.A. § 1105d is added to read:
§ 1105d. USE AND SALE OF PARAQUAT;
REPORT

(a) Definition. As used in this section,
“paraquat” means an herbicide:

(1) known as paraquat, with the chemical
name 1,1'-Dimethyl-4,4'-bipyridinium ion and the
Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS) registry
number 4685-14-7;

(2) known as paraquat dichloride, with the
chemical name 1,1'-Dimethyl-4,4'-bipyridinium
dichloride and the CAS registry number 1910-42-
5;

(3) known as paraquat dimethyl sulfate,
with the chemical name 1,1'-Dimethyl-4,4'-
bipyridinium dimethyl sulfate and the CAS
registry number 2074-50-2; or

(4) known as paraquat, with the chemical
name 1,1'-Dimethyl-4,4'-bipyridinium ion and all
salts thereof.

(b) Prohibition. No person shall sell, use, or
apply paraquat except when authorized by the
Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets under
subsection (c) of this section.

(c) Authorized use. The Secretary may issue a
written permit for the sale, use, or application of
paraquat within fruit-producing tree orchards only
on or before November 1, 2030. The Secretary
shall ensure that any authorized certified
applicator of paraquat has received all training
required by the Environmental Protection Agency
and the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets
not more than one year prior to receiving a permit
for authorized use of paraquat. A written
exemption order under this subsection shall:

Sec. 1. 6 V.S.A. § 1105d is added to read:
§ 1105d. USE AND SALE OF PARAQUAT;
REPORT

(a) Definition. As used in this section,
“paraquat” means an herbicide:

(1) known as paraquat, with the chemical
name 1,1'-Dimethyl-4,4'-bipyridinium ion and the
Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS) registry
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(3) known as paraquat dimethyl sulfate,
with the chemical name 1,1'-Dimethyl-4,4'-
bipyridinium dimethyl sulfate and the CAS
registry number 2074-50-2; or

(4) known as paraquat, with the chemical
name 1,1'-Dimethyl-4,4'-bipyridinium ion and all
salts thereof.

(b) Prohibition. No person shall sell, use, or
apply paraquat except when authorized by the
Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets under
subsection (c) of this section.

(c) Authorized use. The Secretary may issue a
written permit for the sale, use, or application of
paraquat within fruit-producing tree orchards **or
for growing any crop listed in the U.S.
Department of Agriculture Crop Group 13-07:
Berry and Small Fruit Crop Group on or before
December 31, 2030.** The Secretary shall ensure
that any authorized certified applicator of
paraquat has received all training required by the
Environmental Protection Agency and the
Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets not
more than one year prior to receiving a permit for
authorized use of paraquat. A written exemption
order under this subsection shall:

<p>(1) <u>not be valid for more than three years or until November 1, 2030, whichever comes first; and</u></p> <p>(2) <u>specify the paraquat, uses, and crops or plants to which the permit applies; the date the permit takes effect; the permit’s duration; and the permit’s geographic scope, which may include specific farms, fields, or properties.</u></p> <p>(d) <u>Reporting. The Secretary shall report annually on all data regarding any use of paraquat in the State. The report shall include the amount of paraquat used and the date and location where the paraquat was used. The Secretary shall submit the report to the House Committee on Agriculture, Food Resiliency, and Forestry and the Senate Committee on Agriculture on or before December 15 of each year.</u></p>	<p>(1) <u>be valid for not more than three years or until December 31, 2030, whichever comes first;</u></p> <p>(2) <u>specify the name on the label of the paraquat, uses, and crops or plants to which the permit applies; the date the permit takes effect; the permit’s duration; and the permit’s geographic scope, which may include specific farms, fields, or properties; and</u></p> <p>(3) <u>include permit conditions that minimize drift based on drift mitigation measures identified by the Environmental Protection Agency, require adherence to label directions to minimize applicator exposure, and exclusively limit applications to tree rows or vine rows for necessary weed control.</u></p> <p>(d) <u>Reporting. The Secretary shall report annually on all data regarding any use of paraquat in the State. The report shall include the amount of paraquat used and the date and location where the paraquat was used. The Secretary shall submit the report to the House Committee on Agriculture, Food Resiliency, and Forestry and the Senate Committee on Agriculture on or before December 15 of each year.</u></p>
<p>Sec. 3. ALTERNATIVES TO PARAQUAT; STUDY; REPORT</p> <p><u>The Agricultural Innovation Board shall study and report on recommendations for alternatives to the use of paraquat for farmers. The report shall include pesticide alternatives to paraquat, recommendations for practices that reduce the use of and exposure to paraquat, and methods and standards for transitioning farmers to practices that reduce paraquat usage. The report shall also include recommendations for alternative pesticides to paraquat and alternative farming practices to reduce the usage of paraquat in the event paraquat becomes unavailable due to regulatory or commercial action prior to November 1, 2030. On or before January 15, 2027, the Agricultural Innovation Board shall</u></p>	

<p><u>submit the report to the House Committee on Agriculture, Food Resiliency, and Forestry and the Senate Committee on Agriculture.</u></p>	
<p>Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATES <u>(a) This section and Sec. 3 (alternatives to paraquat; study; report) shall take effect on July 1, 2026.</u> <u>(b) All other sections shall take effect on November 1, 2026.</u></p>	<p>Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE <u>This act shall take effect on November 1, 2026.</u></p>